This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.

+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.

+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.

+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

J
87
.C915

B4526014
JAN 21 1909

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY

HENRY B. HARRISON,

GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT,

To the General Assembly,

SESSION OF 1885.

MESSAGE

OF

HIS EXCELLENCY

HENRY B. HARRISON,

GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT,

To the General Assembly,

SESSION OF 1885.

HARTFORD, CONN.:
PRESS OF THE CASE, LOCKWOOD & BRAINARD COMPANY.
1885.

MESSAGE.

Gentlemen of the General Assembly:

Grateful for the honor which has been conferred upon me, I enter upon my official duties with an earnest hope that I may be able to execute loyally and thoroughly the trust which has been committed to my hands.

To you, gentlemen, belongs the highest function in the State. The Judicial department of the government expounds the laws; the Executive department takes care that they shall be faithfully executed; but you, and you alone, are invested with the high prerogative of making and unmaking, at your pleasure, the laws themselves.

I congratulate you individually upon the fact that your several constituencies have declared you worthy to share in the exercise of a power so great; and I trust that our cordial co-operation with each other during your present session may promote, to some extent at least, the honor and welfare of our beloved Commonwealth.

In obedience to the mandate of the Constitution I proceed to lay before you "information of the state of the Government," with such recommendations as seem expedient.

FINANCE.

The funded debt of the State on the first day of December, 1884, amounted to four millions two hundred and seventy-five thousand and one hundred dollars ($4,275,100).

During the fiscal year ending on the 30th day of November, 1884, new bonds to the amount of one million dollars ($1,000,000) were issued and sold; and outstanding bonds, maturing January 1, 1884, to the amount of one million

three hundred and fifteen thousand dollars ($1,315,000) were paid. Thus the debt was reduced to the extent of three hundred and fifteen thousand dollars ($315,000).

The balance of cash in the treasury at the beginning of the year was eight hundred and thirty-seven thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight dollars and eighty cents ($837,868.80). The balance at the end of the year was five hundred and twenty-four thousand five hundred and eighty-three dollars and thirty-eight cents ($524,583.38). Thus the reduction of the funded debt was almost exactly counterbalanced by the reduction of the amount of the balance in the treasury.

The rate of interest upon the newly issued bonds is three and one-half per cent., and the bonds were sold at a premium of six and eighty-five one-hundredths ($6\frac{85}{100}$) per cent.

During the present year, bonds amounting to one million seven hundred and forty-one thousand and one hundred dollars ($1,741,100) will mature; and provision for the payment of them must be made. You will have occasion to consider the question whether it will be possible or not to make the payment in such a manner as to accomplish, at the same time, a further reduction in the principal of the funded debt. At present it is not easy to see how that result, desirable as it is, can be attained without an increase of taxation or a severe, and perhaps hurtful, economy, in the maintenance of the public institutions.

The total resources of the treasury during the fiscal year (including the balance on hand at the beginning of the year, and one million and sixty-eight thousand five hundred dollars received from the sale of bonds already mentioned) amounted to three million four hundred and fifty-two thousand three hundred and twenty-eight dollars and sixty-eight cents ($3,452,328.68).

The principal sources of ordinary revenue were as follows: Taxes received from towns, amounting to five hundred and forty thousand six hundred and sixty-seven dollars and ninety cents ($540,667.90); taxes on mutual insurance com-

panies, amounting to two hundred and seventeen thousand three hundred and twenty-three dollars and thirty-eight cents ($217,323.38); taxes on savings banks, amounting to one hundred and ninety-three thousand five hundred and eleven dollars and seventy-three cents ($193,511.73); and taxes upon railroad companies, amounting to four hundred and twelve thousand two hundred and eighty-four dollars and eighteen cents ($412,284.18).

The principal items of expenditure, other than payment of State bonds, were as follows: On account of sessions of the General Assembly, one hundred and eight thousand two hundred and eighty-four dollars and eight cents ($108,284.08); judicial expenses, two hundred and thirty-nine thousand eight hundred and ninety-six dollars and ninety-eight cents ($239,896.98); board of prisoners in county jails, eighty-six thousand five hundred and seventy-three dollars and eighty-nine cents ($86,573.89); on account of common schools (in addition to the amount paid from the School Fund), two hundred and twenty-eight thousand nine hundred and twenty-six dollars and fifty cents ($228,926.50); on account of State Reform School, seventy-two thousand seven hundred and fifty-two dollars and twenty cents ($72,752.20); on account of humane institutions, one hundred and sixty-two thousand three hundred and forty-six dollars and ninety-two cents ($162,346.92); on account of the National Guard, one hundred and fifty-two thousand nine hundred and forty-five dollars and sixty-eight cents ($152,945.68); and on account of interest on State bonds, two hundred and twenty-nine thousand six hundred and forty-one dollars ($229,641).

In some of these amounts, however, especially in the amount specified as expenses of the National Guard, are included sums which cannot properly be classified as ordinary expenses.

In view of the large amount of money annually expended by the State, and the great variety of purposes to which the expenditure must be applied, it has become highly important that the different appropriations from the treasury should no

longer be made without any systematic reference to each other, but that they should be regulated in their respective amounts by a clear and comprehensive understanding of the relative importance and necessities of their various objects, and that the total amount appropriated for any given year should be kept within the limit of the income for that year. The act of 1884 "providing for annual appropriations for State expenditures" seeks to introduce into our system of financial administration a salutary change in the particulars to which I have just referred. There may be some friction in the working of the act at first, and it may be found to need amendment in points of detail; but the experience of many States which have embodied its principles in their constitutions or their laws justifies the belief that a faithful obedience to its substantial requirements will greatly promote sound economy and intelligent discrimination in the expenditure of the public money.

The General Assembly at its last session directed the Governor to appoint a commission consisting of nine persons "to consider and report to the General Assembly a comprehensive plan for providing a revenue for the State." The commission was duly appointed, and has entered upon its work; but there is little prospect that it will be able to present any plan in season for you to take final action upon it during the present session.

NATIONAL GUARD.

It has become the settled policy of the State to maintain a small but sufficient military force in a high state of efficiency.

The National Guard now consists of two thousand three hundred and fifty-three officers and men. You will be gratified to know that its discipline and morale are excellent, and probably better than ever before; that its supply of arms, uniforms, and camp and garrison equipage is sufficient for its wants; and that in case of emergency the whole force could be put into the field in less than twenty-four hours, thoroughly equipped and ready to move in any direction.

Extraordinary expenses have been incurred during the last

year, amounting to forty-two thousand one hundred and eighty-seven dollars and eight cents ($42,187.08), in the construction of armories and in grading and building on the camp ground at Niantic. The ordinary expenses of maintaining the National Guard during the same time have amounted to one hundred and six thousand four hundred and eighteen dollars and eighty-seven cents ($106,418.87). The amount received by the State as avails of the military commutation tax was ninety-seven thousand three hundred and ninety-two dollars and twenty cents ($97,392.20).

It will be seen, therefore, that the ordinary military expenses exceeded the income from the commutation tax to the extent only of nine thousand and twenty-six dollars and sixty-seven cents ($9,026.67).

Armories are now in process of construction, and nearly finished, in Bridgeport and New London. A site for another in Norwalk has been purchased, but no further step towards its construction has been taken. Of the two hundred thousand dollars appropriated in 1882 for the building of armories, the amount remaining upon the completion of the work in progress at Bridgeport and New London will be about thirty thousand dollars.

Important information, which cannot now be detailed, in reference to the military affairs of the State, will be found in the reports of the Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General.

Legislation is needed in regard to the care of armories; and it is possible that an examination of the reports just mentioned may suggest to you the advisability of taking action on other subjects.

EDUCATION.

The number of our public schools is 1,639, and the number of children between the ages of four and sixteen years shown by the enumeration of January, 1884, was 150,601—being a small increase over the number enumerated in 1883.

The total expense of maintaining the schools, not including

expenses of the Normal School, during the past year, was one million seven hundred and seventy-seven thousand two hundred and seventy-seven dollars ($1,777,277), of which amount the sum of one million one hundred and thirty thousand eight hundred and sixty-three dollars ($1,130,863) was paid to teachers.

Of the whole expenditure, one hundred and twelve thousand nine hundred and fifty dollars and seventy-five cents ($112,950.75) came from revenue of the School Fund; two hundred and twenty-eight thousand nine hundred and twenty-six dollars and fifty cents ($228,926.50) from the treasury of the State; forty-two thousand and eighty-nine dollars and six cents ($42,089.06) from income of town deposit funds; eight hundred and ten thousand two hundred and fifty-three dollars and ninety-three cents ($810,253.93) from town taxes; four hundred and eighty-four thousand three hundred and forty-three dollars and fifty-five cents ($484,343.55) from district taxes, and the rest from other sources.

The principal of the School Fund on the 30th day of November, 1884, was two millions and seventeen thousand one hundred and fifty-eight dollars and seventy-four cents ($2,017,158.74), and its income during the year ending on that date was one hundred and twenty-seven thousand and forty-nine dollars and forty-seven cents ($127,049.47). Appropriations were made by the General Assembly in 1883 and 1884 towards satisfying deficiencies which had resulted to the Fund from depreciation in real estate acquired by the foreclosure of old mortgages. The whole of the depreciation is not yet made up.

The Normal School is improving. Its number of pupils on the 30th day of November, 1884, was one hundred and sixty-four.

The common schools throughout the State, on the whole, are making satisfactory progress. A few of them, however, from special and local causes, are deteriorating. The report of the Board of Education will explain those causes and propose remedies for them.

More efficient means than those now existing should be provided for bringing into the schools a class of children who, without good reason, are permitted to stay away from them in idleness during a considerable part of the year.

STATE PRISON.

The last General Assembly appointed "a commission to take into consideration and examine all matters relating to the building of a new State Prison, or to provide for an enlargement or improvement" of the present one.

The Commissioners will recommend the State to retain the land now occupied at Wethersfield, to acquire a small piece of ground adjacent thereto, and to build a new prison on the tract of land thus enlarged.

You will probably be convinced that the reasons of the Commissioners for this recommendation, and for some other recommendations which are to be made in their report, are conclusive.

At all events it seems evident that something must be done, and done soon, to remedy the growing evils which necessarily result from the inadequacy of the present prison to meet the purposes for which it was designed.

The numerous institutions under the care of the State entail upon it heavy burdens. A disposition on our part to shrink from making, at present, any addition to those burdens is natural and commendable. But if you find that the construction of a new prison has become a matter of substantial necessity you will know how to face the emergency, and dispose of it in a proper manner.

CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

The number of patients in the Connecticut Hospital for the Insane on the 30th of November, 1883, was eight hundred and sixty. During the year, by the admission of two hundred and forty-three new patients, the whole number under treatment was eleven hundred and three, of whom one hundred and eighty were discharged—leaving on the 30th of Novem-

ber, 1884, nine hundred and twenty-three. Although the hospital has been, for want of sufficient accommodations, greatly and even dangerously overcrowded, the death rate among its inmates has been lower than in former years, and below the average rate in similar institutions elsewhere. By strict economy the regular revenue has been made sufficient to meet all ordinary expenses, including necessary repairs and improvements.

Under authority given by the General Assembly at its last session the hospital is now in process of enlargement by the construction of an addition which will accommodate one hundred and fifty patients, and will probably furnish, with the accommodations already existing, ample room for all female patients for many years. The new building is expected to be ready for use in April next, and its cost will not exceed the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars appropriated for its construction.

Additional provision for the accommodation of male patients is considered necessary.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

The Industrial School for Girls is doing a beneficent work. The Superintendent reports that more than two-thirds of the girls whom the institution has bound out to service during the last fifteen years have become respectable members of society.

His remarks in regard to legislation which he deems desirable are worthy of your attention.

STATE REFORM SCHOOL.

The State Reform School appears to be conducted in such a manner as to give general satisfaction to those best acquainted with its management.

The number of boys committed to its care increases from year to year. The number who are allowed, on account of meritorious conduct, to leave the institution, is also annually increasing, and has exceeded two hundred during the last year. Unfortunately, these boys after leaving the school

generally return to their homes, there to live in the same society and surrounded by the same temptations to idleness and mischief as before. Consequently some of them go back to their old practices and are sent again to the school, while others lead irregular lives and grow up without the careful supervision of responsible guardianship. As they continue to be the wards of the State until they become of age it is important, both to themselves and to the State, that they should be required, after leaving the school, to follow some regular employment, under proper oversight and control, until they become familiar with some industry that will prepare them for useful citizenship. In order to accomplish this end legislation seems to be needed.

STORRS AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL.

You will receive the report of a committee appointed by order of the last General Assembly under instruction to make full investigation into the Storrs Agricultural School and all matters relating thereto.

Having no definite information as to the probable contents of that report, I will only say, in regard to the School, that the public policy of which it was intended to be a useful instrument appears to be sound, and that our agricultural interests seem fully entitled to receive at your hands all the advantages which such an institution, wisely managed and liberally supported, ought to furnish.

The Agricultural Experiment Station is commending itself more and more to the confidence of the farmers of the State.

RAILROADS.

The number of railroad companies in the State is twenty-five, of which fourteen have roads in operation.

The total amount of capital stock issued by all the companies is fifty-seven millions nine hundred and thirty-five thousand and seventy-seven dollars ($57,935,077), of which amount stockholders residing in Connecticut hold seventeen millions four hundred and thirty-eight thousand nine

hundred and fifty dollars ($17,438,950). The length of completed roads in the State is nine hundred and seventy-three miles, the length of double tracks one hundred and seventy-four miles, and the length of siding two hundred and forty-eight miles—making the total of single-track miles one thousand three hundred and ninety-five.

The number of passengers carried during the last year was sixteen millions nine hundred and fifty-seven thousand five hundred and seventy-four, of whom only one was fatally injured.

The total number of casualties of all sorts was considerably less than it had been during the year next preceding.

The commissioners represent that the roads, on the whole, are well managed and in good condition.

SAVINGS BANKS.

The amount of deposits in the eighty-four savings banks of the State on the first of October, 1884, was ninety millions six hundred and fourteen thousand six hundred and twenty-two dollars and eighty-nine cents ($90,614,622.89), being an increase of two millions five hundred and sixteen thousand two hundred and thirty-nine dollars and twelve cents ($2,516,239.12) during the year ending on that day. The number of depositors was then two hundred and fifty-two thousand two hundred and forty-five, being an increase of five thousand five hundred and ninety-three during the year.

The amount of indorsed paper held by these banks was three millions eight hundred and two thousand and seventy-five dollars and fifty cents ($3,802,075.50). It is a fact of favorable significance that there has been in this class of investments a diminution during the year to the extent of two hundred and twenty-eight thousand six hundred and ninety-one dollars and twenty-nine cents ($228,691.29).

The amount invested in bank stocks was six millions two hundred and twenty-five thousand nine hundred and sixty dollars ($6,225,960).

The banks are represented to be sound and safe. The Commissioners, however, still entertain the opinion, which

they have repeatedly expressed to the General Assembly, that such banks ought to be prohibited from investing any of their funds in notes not secured by mortgage or other safe collateral security; and that they ought not to be permitted in future to purchase stock of national banks (especially of national banks located outside of this State), inasmuch as every share of such stock exposes the holder of it not only to the possible loss of the value of the share itself, but also to the danger of losing an additional sum equal to the par value of the share in the event of the failure of the bank by which the share was issued. Many of the savings banks have suffered, to some extent, during the past year by depreciation in the value of the stock held by them in one of the national banks of New York which fell into embarrassment and was threatened with failure. Believing that the highest duty of a savings bank is to keep its funds invested safely and that it should incur no unnecessary risk whatsoever for the sake of profit, I fully concur with the Commissioners in the opinions expressed by them upon the points to which allusion has just been made.

INSURANCE.

There are ten stock Fire Insurance companies in the State. On the first day of January, 1884, their paid-up capital was ten millions eight hundred and one thousand and five hundred dollars ($10,801,500); their gross assets amounted to twenty-four millions two hundred and seventy thousand five hundred and forty-five dollars ($24,270,545), and their surplus above all liabilities was six millions six hundred and seventy-six thousand five hundred and twenty-three dollars ($6,676,523).

There are also seventeen Mutual Fire Insurance companies, whose assets on the same date amounted to one million one hundred and fifty-one thousand six hundred and eighty-five dollars ($1,151,685), and whose surplus above all liabilities was then eight hundred and fifty-four thousand seven hundred and thirty one dollars ($854,731).

There are nine Life Insurance companies, whose gross assets on that date amounted to one hundred and nine millions fifty-nine thousand six hundred and twenty-one dollars ($109,059,621) and whose liabilities (except capital) were ninety-six millions one hundred and forty-seven thousand five hundred and seventy-seven dollars ($96,147,577).

The law relating to insurance done in this State by companies of other States is very generally and persistently violated. Stringent legislation seems to be required as a means of compelling obedience to it. In his last report, the Commissioner, referring to this matter, makes some statements of fact, accompanied by forcible comments thereon, which ought not to be overlooked or lightly regarded.

HUMANE INSTITUTIONS.

Of the humane and reformatory institutions of the State which have not been already mentioned it may be said, generally and briefly, that they continue to justify their claims upon the public favor. For detailed information in regard to the School for Imbeciles and the Temporary Homes for Children you are referred to the reports of the officers having them respectively in charge.

THE NEW ORLEANS EXPOSITION.

There is no doubt that our agricultural and manufacturing industries will be fully and creditably represented in the Exposition at New Orleans. The energetic efforts of our Commissioner to secure that result are worthy of cordial recognition. By helping Connecticut to manifest, in a becoming manner, a feeling of sympathy and good-will towards Louisiana and other States particularly interested in the Exposition, he has rendered valuable service.

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

It will be necessary for you to confront the possibility, if not the probability, that at an early day the Asiatic cholera may make its appearance within our borders. Happily the

resources of modern science, in the advising and administration of sanitary regulations, give us reasonable assurance of our ability to grapple successfully with that dreaded pestilence if we shall use those resources with promptness and energy.

In compliance with the request of the National Board of Health, I remind you of the urgent necessity of appropriate legislation, so far as our laws may need such reinforcement, for providing means whereby the most thorough sanitary service throughout the State may be immediately organized.

The great and increasing value of the services rendered by the State Board of Health is becoming fully appreciated by the people. The labors of the Board have increased from year to year since its establishment, in 1878. As a necessary consequence, the duties of its Secretary, who is also its Executive Officer, have grown more and more arduous and exacting. The salary provided for him by existing law is obviously insufficient to compensate a competent officer in his position for the amount of work which ought now to be required of him at all times, and which is likely to be greatly increased during the coming year.

FOREIGN ATTACHMENT.

Serious and apparently well-founded complaints are made against our law relating to foreign attachment—particularly in regard to its operation in suits for the collection of small debts by the attachment of wages.

I trust that you will be able to devise an adequate remedy for the evils which have given rise to such complaints.

LABOR BUREAU.

Many of the States of the Union have made provision for the systematic collection and publication of statistical information in relation to those classes of citizens who are engaged in manual labor. There is reason to believe that such information, collected with care and intelligence, has been found very valuable, as a guide to legislation, and in other

ways, in some, if not all, of those States. A Bureau of Labor Statistics, if useful anywhere, could certainly be made useful in a manufacturing State like Connecticut.

In 1873 an act was passed establishing such a bureau in this State. In 1875 the act was repealed. Investigation will probably satisfy you that the experiment, so begun and so soon abandoned, was given up without a fair trial, and that if it had been thoroughly tried under favorable conditions, it would have been successful.

I, therefore, recommend that if, upon inquiry, you should concur in the opinions just indicated, you re-enact the statute of 1873, with such modification as you may deem desirable.

THE BALLOT.

The thirty-first section of the act of 1877, relating to electors, contains the following provision: "All ballots shall be on plain white paper, with the name and office written or printed thereon, and no other ballots shall be received."

The object of this provision is manifest, and unquestionably right. Its intention is to aid in preserving the secrecy of the ballot.

The secrecy of the ballot cannot be too carefully protected. It is the sacred right of every elector to exclude from all other persons, so far as it may be reasonably possible for him to do so, all knowledge of the kind of vote which he may see fit to cast.

On the other hand, however, it is the right, equally sacred, of every duly qualified voter to have full effect given, in accordance with his intention, to every intelligible ballot cast by him in good faith, so far as such effect can safely and properly be given to it. The law governing the ballot ought, therefore, to be so plain and clear that no man of ordinary intelligence can easily deceive himself, or be deceived by others, into casting a ballot which must be rejected for some slight and unknown irregularity of form or appearance.

The section to which your attention is now directed, is by no means plain and clear. Simple as it seems at first glance,

it is fairly open to different and opposite constructions in several particulars. The same thing may be said in regard to a part of the forty-fourth section of the same act. One interpretation of those two sections, plausible certainly, if not sound, would have required the rejection of a large portion of the ballots cast in perfect good faith at every State election since the act was passed. Two years ago a serious question arose under those same sections touching the validity of a majority of the votes actually and honestly cast for State officers at a State election. But, although a confirming act was passed, in order to suppress that particular question for that particular occasion, the statute still remains unchanged, with all its mischievous ambiguities in full force.

No further observations on this subject will be necessary to induce a careful consideration of it on your part. I trust that you will have no serious difficulty in modifying the law in such a manner as to give full effect to every honest ballot, while maintaining, at the same time, under rigorous regulations, the freedom of every elector to cast, in absolute secrecy, such ballot as he may have a right to cast, and see fit to cast, at every election.

JUDICIARY.

As a thing intrinsically right and, at the same time, likely to be worth much more than it will cost, I recommend the passage of an act providing that every judge of the Supreme Court of Errors, or of the Superior Court, who shall cease to be judge after having served two full terms, or who shall cease to be judge by arriving at the age of seventy years during his second term, shall receive thereafter, annually during his life, such moderate and reasonable sum as the act shall specify.

Such a law would furnish to the judges, as the fair reward of veteran service, a guarantee of decent subsistence in their old age; and thus, by increasing, at a very small expense, the moral as well as the material value of their positions, it would do much to make the bench more attractive than it is now to the men best fitted to occupy it.